

# Special Education Technology Center

inclusive insights & access tips

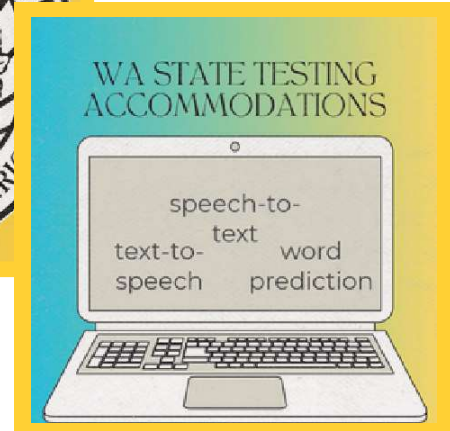
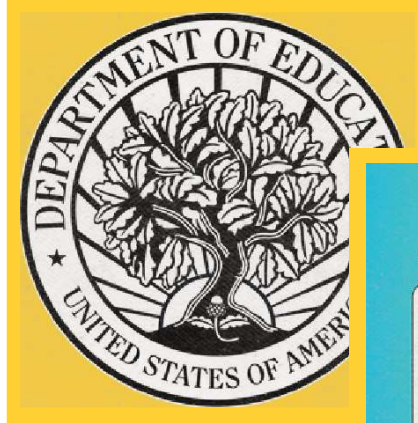
Issue 6/ March 2024

## Key Guidance on Assistive Technology Myths and Facts

In January, the Office of Special Education Programs and the Office of Education Technology issued important guidance on Assistive Technology (AT) devices and services through a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) and a document addressing "[Myths and Facts Surrounding AT Devices and Services](#)." These resources aim to benefit a diverse audience, including

parents, early service providers, special educators, general educators, related service providers, school and district administrators, technology specialists and directors, as well as employees at state lead agencies and educational agencies. The purpose of these documents is to enhance comprehension of AT requirements, dispel prevalent myths associated with AT, and furnish examples illustrating the use of AT devices and services.

To provide further insight, SETC created explanatory videos including: [Myth and Fact #5](#) regarding how children acquire proficiency using AT devices, and [Myth and Fact #8](#) concerning state testing. (For further reference on state testing, watch [2024 Updates on Accommodations and Language Supports](#) and this [Quick Demo of ALS, Text-to-Speech, and Word Prediction on WA State Testing](#).) Washington State, recognized for its leadership in AT, is actively supporting educators and students by challenging the myths featured in this recent guidance. Discover notable highlights of the ongoing initiatives and resources available in Washington State below.



## Technical Assistance Focused on AT

Looking for technical assistance and support? [The Special Education Technology Center](#) (SETC) provides Technical Assistance focused on AT and AAC devices and services, as well as processes to build the capacity of IEP teams to consider, assess, and implement AT. Also, Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB) [Outreach Access Services](#) provides TA specific to AT required for low vision or blind learners to access and express learning.

## Statewide AT Lending Libraries

Washington State has two libraries specifically to support technology trials with students and educator professional development. The University of WA hosts the [WA Assistive Technology Act Program's Device Lending Library](#), and Central WA University hosts the [Special Education Technology AT Lending Library](#). In addition, the [Ogden Resource Center](#) supports and advocates for the educational needs of students who are blind or low vision.

## District Spotlight

The Burlington-Edison School District champions inclusivity by providing accessible technology to ALL students. This commitment to accessibility not only supports those with specific requirements, but also enhances the educational experience for everyone. In [this 2-minute video clip](#), Katie Dorr and Arie Werder, from the Educational Technology and Innovation & Teaching and Learning department, explains how they make curriculum material accessible.

## new and notable



Upcoming webinars:

03/05: [Clicker: Alternative Access Tips and Options](#)

03/07: [Inclusive Learning Chatter: Representation: Options for Students to Access Instruction](#)

03/12: [ATIA 2024 Recap: Connect, Discover, Inspire](#)

03/13: [AT Chatter: District-Level Planning for Improving AT Consideration within IEPs](#)

03/18: [Supporting Students with Dysgraphia: Identifying Challenges and Finding the Right Tool](#)

03/28: [AT Chatter – Inclusive Tips for Early Childhood: Expanding Communication](#)

Comprehensive Literacy for All "Book Nook": This month's featured book is "[We are in a Book](#)"!

